

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00303 181513Z

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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P R 181442Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USNATO 1591

USNMR/SHAPE

SECSTATE WASHDC 6071

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0303

USINFO FOR IOP/M; USIS/USNATO FOR HAMILTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: CURRENT MEDIA REACTION

TIMES OF MALTA (CONSERVATIVE) IN AN EDITORIAL OF MARCH 18 ENTITLED  
"NATO AND PORTUGAL" COMMENTS:

"EVENTS IN PORTUGAL ARE INEXORABLE MOVING THE COMMUNIST WAY.  
THIS IS CAUSING INCREASING CONCERN IN WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AND  
IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION OF WHICH PORTUGAL HAS  
BEEN A VALUABLE MEMBER FOR SEVERAL YEARS. LITTLE CREDENCE IS  
BEING ATTACHED TO THE ASSURANCES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL  
THAT PORTUGAL WOULD REMAIN LOYAL TO THE ALLIANCE. THE COMMUNIST  
PARTY OF SENHOR ALVARO CUNHAL IS UNLIKELY TO RESPECT SUCH  
ASSURANCES.

THE NEWS OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THE SOVIET UNION, OPERATING THROUGH  
A PORTUGUESE SHIPPING COMPANY, HAS ASKED FOR FUELLING AND SUPPLY  
FACILITIES IN MADEIRA AND THAT THE REQUEST WAS BEING CONSIDERED  
BY THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, HAS ADDED TO NATO'S CONCERN. RUSSIAN  
MERCHANT SHIPS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY PURPORT TO BE.

MADEIRA IS VERY CLOSE TO NATO BASES AND CUTS ACROSS IMPORTANT  
SHIPPING LANES TO WEST AFRICA. THE GRANTING OF THESE FACILITIES,  
SHOULD THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SO DECIDE, WOULD INDEED BE A  
DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT AS FAR AS THE WEST AND NATO ARE CONCERNED." BIR  
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00303 181513Z

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS SUMMARIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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